

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 16521 181019Z

43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 /016 W

----- 057690

R 180921Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4952

UNCLAS TOKYO 16521

ATTN: EA/EX

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, JA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SALE OF TOB/MOTOR POOL - PROPERTY 04318

REF: (A) STATE 255421; (B) TOKYO 10455; (C) STATE 16259

1. PARA 1, REF (A) INDICATES THAT A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO SELL PROPERTY 04318 (MOTOR POOL AND SITE OF T.O.B.) IMMEDIATELY AFTER MOVE INTO NEW CHANCERY IS COMPLETED. THIS WAS AN UNPLEASANT AND DISTURBING SURPRISE. IN REF (B), EMBASSY STRONGLY URGED "THAT NO ACTION TOWARD SALE OF THIS PROPERTY SHOULD BE INITIATED UNTIL USES OF BENEFIT TO THE USG HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED," AND EMBASSY OUTLINED SEVERAL IMMEDIATE POSSIBLE USES AND ONE LONG-TERM POSSIBLE USE. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO THAT MESSAGE, NOR HAVE ITS VIEWS ON THIS MATTER BEEN SOUGHT THROUGH ANY OTHER CHANNEL.

2. THE EMBASSY REMAINS OF THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE A GRAVE MISTAKE TO SELL THIS PROPERTY WITHOUT WEIGHING CAREFULLY THE LONG-TERM ADVANTAGE TO THE USG OF ITS RETENTION AND ALTERNATIVE USE. THIS VIEW WAS ENDORSED BY THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS WHO RECENTLY EXAMINED THIS QUESTION AND HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT "THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD HOLD IN ABEYANCE ANY DECISION OF THE SALE OF PROPERTY 04308 (TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING SITE) UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A REVIEW OF TOKYO'S NEEDS IS MADE, BECAUSE, WHILE WE HOLD NO BRIEF FOR ANY PARTICULAR USE OF THE PROPERTY (AS A MARINE QUARTERS OR THE

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CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT BUILDING, FOR EX-

AMPLE), THE PROPERTY IS A PRIME CAPITAL ASSET IN AN EXCELL-
ENT LOCATION AND OF INCREASING VALUE. THEREFORE, WE SHOULD
BE SURE DISPOSAL IS IN OUR BEST LONG-TERM INTEREST BEFORE
IT IS SOLD."

3. IF INDEED A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO SELL PROPERTY 04318,
THE EMBASSY STRONGLY URGES THAT THE DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER
THAT DECISION.
HODGSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO16521
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750401-0060
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751135/aaaabevf.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 255421, 75 TOKYO 10455, 75 STATE 16259
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 SEP 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED SALE OF TOB/MOTOR POOL - PROPERTY 04318
TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006